

Wm Lloyd Garrison

Boston, Jan. 14, 1860.

My Dear Friend:

224 I ought to be ashamed of myself — and am — that I have not answered your first letter, without waiting to receive a second one; but I am so deluged with letters and manuscripts, that many of them get temporarily displaced or mislaid before being attended to; and so — "out of sight, out of mind."

To your kind inquiry as to the state of my health, I am happy to reply, that I am feeling quite as well as usual — at no time, however, being free from my catarrhal attacks, which trouble me a good deal. I have scarcely written any thing for the Liberator for some time past, mainly because I have been anxious to record in its columns, as fully as possible, the amazing out-

pouring of public sentiment — pro and con — in relation to John Brown; and because I am ever disposed to be indulgent to correspondents — especially to "C. H. W." — even to the exclusion of my own articles. I must, however, "turn over a new leaf," as soon as the present extraordinary pressure shall have been removed.

I am very much obliged to you for inviting me to give one of your course of anti-slavery lectures in Syracuse; but the distance is too far, and the travelling expenses too great, to warrant such a journey, unless I could do some anti-slavery labor by the way.

At such an inclement season of the year, I feel inclined not to venture far beyond the vicinity of Boston; and I have therefore declined a most pressing invitation to be present at the annual gathering at Albany, ^{Jan. 31, and} Feb. 1, ^{and} 2, ~~at 8.~~

As the Woman's Rights Convention is to be held at Albany, Feb. 3 and 4, I am almost tempted to revoke my decision, and say I will be at Albany, and then on Saturday, Feb. 4th, go to Syracuse, and spend the Sunday with you, and lecture (should the arrangement be agreeable) on Monday evening, Feb. 5th, and return home the next day. But I dare not, now, make any definite pledge, and will revolve the matter over in my mind, and let you know my final conclusion shortly. I long to see you and your dear family again under your own roof.

I trust your own health continues good, and that your European tour will long prove of real service to you in the way of longevity. Do not overwork yourself. As we are advancing in life toward the goal of old age, we ought to remember that we cannot bear the burdens and labors of life as in our younger days.

Our Executive Committee have acted upon your suggestion to send Anti-Slavery books to various parts of England, and will carry it out in a liberal manner. As for agents abroad, we do not see our way clear to make any overtures at present, but we shall not lose sight of the subject.

It is gratifying to hear that our afflicted friend, Gerrit Smith, is nearly restored to his usual state of health. He has had my deepest sympathies, and so has Mrs. Smith. May his days of usefulness yet be many on the earth.

How pleasant it must have been to you to have had such a reception on your arrival home! No man better deserves a host of loving and unswerving friends than yourself, and these abound in all directions.

Helen sends her kindest regards to you, to Mrs. May, the two Charlottes, and all the children. Mine are included in hers.

Lovingly yours, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.
S. J. May.